FLORIDA’S HURRICANE RESPONSE

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Florida Emergency Response

• ESF-17
  Animals, Agriculture & Vector Control

• State Agricultural Response Team
  • Is a multiagency coordination (MAC) group
  • Consists of agencies and organizations which:
    • Prioritizes response actions
    • Coordinates information and communication flow
    • Provides resources for incident response teams
SART = Team
More than 25 partner agencies
Preparation Before the Storm

• Training and coordination with counties, partner agencies and industry
• We assist counties in preparation
• Multiple trainings and exercises
• Public messaging-Florida Disaster.org
Evacuation Recommendations

Pets

• Have a plan (for family and pets)!
• Don’t leave pets behind
• Boarding-pet friendly hotels, relatives, friends, shelters
• Bring:
  • Medical records
  • Medication
  • Carrier/leash/bowls/beds
  • Food and water
  • Identification-microchip, current photo, collar (rabies vaccination tag)
Evacuation Recommendations

Livestock

• Evacuate livestock with owners starting 3 days before impact
• Seek boarding facilities well away from impact area
• Horses are most commonly evacuated
• Other livestock often shelter in place
• Identification is important
  • Horses-tail or mane ties, leather halters with ID, microchip, brand, recent photo
  • Other livestock-usually, ear tags, tattoos, brands, paint, neck bands
• Should have current Coggins test for horses
Preparation As Storm Approaches

• Messaging and communication with industry groups, citizens and other agencies
• Staffing EOC
• Activating and staging IMT personnel and supplies
• Working with adjoining states to waive movement requirements
• Working with DOT to lift road weight limits to allow livestock to move
• HSUS-moving animals out of shelters to make room for strays due to impending storm
Suspending Movement Requirements

• Contact neighboring states to waive animal movement requirements for those animals engaged in emergency evacuations
  • No OCVI
  • No Coggins
  • No vaccination requirements

• Requires the cooperation of adjoining states when leaving Florida

• Animals must satisfy movement requirements/restrictions when re-entering the state
Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement
Inspection Stations
Massive Evacuation

7 million people evacuated

585 County Human Shelters Opened

- A record, Housed +/- 350,000 people
- FLNG had to lead this effort
100+ Pet Friendly Shelters Opened

SART deploys volunteers to assist counties with pet sheltering

ESF-17 and SART deploys over 4,000 animal crates
Hurricane Irma Made Landfall as a Category 4
September 10, 2017
ESF-17 IMT Opens ICP

September 12th
Kissimmee IFAS Extension Facility
SART Agency Liaisons at ICP
ICP Personnel

ICP
• 87 Incident Management Team (IMT) personnel
• 6 SART partner agency liaisons at ICP

Assessment
• 10 field assessment teams
• 32 counties assessed
• 450+ damage on-site assessments completed
• 43,732 animals assessed (various species)
• Top identified needs: feed, structural, electricity, fencing
Veterinary Response Team Deployed to Florida Keys
ESF17 Animal Technical Rescue Teams (8)
University of Florida, IFAS Extension Service

• Great county-level support
• Best agricultural issues POC in each county
Florida Cattlemen’s Association

- Moved cattle from flooded fields
- Chain saw crews
- Shared and moved hay
Donation Receiving and Distribution

Two Staging Areas: Arcadia and Kissimmee
Vector Control IMT Activated
Additional Actions

- Worked to provide access to dairy facilities - FDACS OALE

- Prioritized fuel deliveries to dairies and producers - FDACS DE

- Worked to prioritize rail car delivery of grain to feed mills

- Located vendors to support producers’ needs (generators, debris removal, etc.)
Hurricane Irma’s Damage to Florida Agriculture

Estimated losses
• Citrus: $760,816,600
• Sugar: $382,603,397
• Beef Cattle: $237,476,562
• Fruits and Vegetables: $180,193,096
• Field Crops: $62,747,058
• Dairy: $11,811,695
• Etc. (aquaculture, forestry, floriculture...)

$2 billion + total crop losses
$2.5 billion + total losses to production agriculture
Lessons Learned/Challenges

• Need many cooperating agencies and organizations to address response issues
  • Multiagency Coordination Group and Incident Management Team ICS structure works well
  • Need strong communications between SEOC, MAC group and IMT

• Counties will always need help with pet sheltering

• Donation management is always problematic

• When to stop providing assistance

• FEMA pays very little under Public Assistance for animal/ag. issues
Questions?